on the ground of overall favourable benefit-risk ratio.

Certain pesticides reported to have been banned in U.S.A. and certain European countries are still being used in India due to the following reasons:—

(i) Non-availability of safer/cheaper substitutes, *e.g.* DDT in Public Health.

(ii) Specific pest and disease situation.

(iii) More rapid degradation and less persistence of pesticides in Indian environmental conditions compared to countries in temperate zone.

(iv) Carefully considered use pattern recommended by Research and Extension Agencies; and

(v) Registration of pesticides for use in safer formulations.

537. [*Transferred to the 5th December*, 1991]

Introduction of two-child norm

538. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item entitled "two-child norm for elected office likely" which appeared in the Times of India, dated the 20th September, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and what is the response received from the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) To impart of new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme, a draft Action Plan has been evolved in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories Administration. One of the important elements of this Action Plan is the proposal for developing an innovative package of incentives/disincentives for promotion of small family norm. No details have, as yet, been finalised in this regard, as the package of incentives/disincentives is proposed to be adopted through further consultations with States/UTs and other concerned Ministries/Departments in the Central Government. Many suggestions, such as making the two children norm obligatory for eligibility for elected officers are still in the consideration stage.

Deaths in Kasturba Hospital, Delhi

539. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "Death stalks hospital's labour ward" which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 11th October, 1991;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that 79 of 142 new borns have died in the MCD's Kasturba Hospital during the past few months;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the patients are being given outdated medicines by the hospital;

(d) whether Government propose to probe the working of the hospital; and

(e) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND